THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Research on development of genetically engineered/improved (i) cotton cultivars for protection against American Bollworm, and (ii) rice cultivars for protection against Yellow Stem Borer is actively being pursued. Results of two years' trials, of three Bt-cotton hybrids (MECH-12, MECH-184 and MECH-162; developed under MONSANTO-Mahyco collaborative effort), conducted under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have been submitted to the Genetic engineering Approval Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

(b) Under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-State Agricultural University set-up, Bt-gene has also been successfully incorporated in cotton cultivars (such as LRA 5166) and rice cultivars (such as IR-64, Pusa Basmati-I and Karnal Local). The issue of availability of these materials from the public sector to the farmers will arise after careful assessment of (i) genetic worthiness of these transformed materials in field testing, (ii) their impact on environment, and (iii) other bio-safety considerations; which also includes clearly laid-out procedures under Govt. of India's Deptt. of Biotechnology (under Union Ministry of Science & Technology) and Union Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Treaty on food security

2088. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) approved a Treaty to protect the variety of world's crops;

(b) whether India also participated in the deliberations of the organization in finalizing this Treaty;

(c) whether many countries have opined that the Treaty may not have any real impact in the war on hunger as the current crop test falls far short of the global food security needs; and

(d) if so, how the Treaty is being viewed by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted in the 31st Session of

the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council held in Rome, Italy from 2—13 November, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. This Treaty acknowledges that the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation and documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are essential to meet the goals of World Food Security and for sustainable agricultural development.

New institutes of ICAR in NER

2089. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new institutes established by ICAR in the North Eastern States indicating the location, dates of establishment, present status, total sanctioned staff, vacancy positions, activities till date etc.

(b) whether these institutes could not function due to inadequate staff; and

(c) if so, the action initiated and the target set to complete the recruitment process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) National Research Centre on Pig has been sanctioned at Rani, Guwahati, Assam on 22.8.2001 and the land has been acquired for its establishment from the State Government of Assam. The provision of personnel for this centre is under discussion with Ministry of Finance. Meanwhile the functions of the Institute are being managed by scientist deployed temporarily from other places and staff taken on contract.

World Bank's assistance for rehabilitation work in Gujarat

2090. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had extended support for massive earthquake rehabilitation programmes to Gujarat Government during the last year;

(b) if so, the details of assistance rendered by the World Bank to the Gujarat Government;